Conference and the Government has agreed, in principle, to have these laws reviewed by setting up a high powered body so as to ensure consistency of labour laws with the general changes taking place in the economic policy as also to provide for greater welfare of the working class.

Campaign Against Child Labour

1282. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the findings of the Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL), the distinction between the hazardous and non-hazardous sector as the Child Labour Prohition Act, 1986 is "Superfluous and has failed to account for the exact number of child labour working in hazardous units";

(b) whether Government are aware that according to the (CACL), in Orissa the situation is particularly worse in the south-western region which has nearly 1,87,710 child labour; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL) had organised a Public Hearing and National Convention on Child Labour from 30th March-Ist April, 1997 in New Delhi. Its findings, inter alia, included that the distinction between 'Hazardous' and 'non-hazardous occupations obtaining in the 1986 Act and in the Government of India policy should be done away with, as all employment of children is per se hazardous to the well-being of the child.

(b) and (c) As per the 1991 census, the total number of working children in the State of Orissa is 452, 394. Considering the magnitude and the nature of the problem of child labour a gradual, sequential and integrated approach has been initiated by the Government. Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, employment of children is prohibited in seven occupations and eighteen processes listed in the Schedule to the Act. The condition of employment of children is regulated in occupations and processes not prohibited under the Act. While total elimination of child labour is the ultimate objective, as a matter of prioritisation, withdrawal and rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations has been taken up in the first instance. So far 76 National Child Labour Projects have been sanctioned for the rehabilitation of 1.5 lakh working children. 16 child labour projects have been sanctioned for the State of Orissa.

निजी क्षेत्र में पेंशन योजना

1283. **श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला:** क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने नई पेंशन योजना को लोकप्रिय बनाने के लिए सेमिनारों इत्यादि, के माध्यम से जुलाई, 1996 में प्रयास किये थे,

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या सरकार निजी क्षेत्र में रोजगार के अवसर बढ़ाने को ध्यान में रखते हुए निजी क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों में भी पेंशन योजना लागू करने पर विचार कर रही है,

(घ) इस पहलू पर कुछ श्रमिक संघों द्वारा व्यक्त किए गए विचारों की मुख्य विशेषताएं क्या-क्या हैं, और

(ङ) सरकार की इस पर प्रक्रिया है?

विद्युत मंत्री (श्री आर० कुमारमंगलम): (क) और (ख) सरकार ने कर्मचारी पेंशन योजना, 1995 को लोकप्रिय बनाने के लिए जुलाई, 1996 में कोई सेमीनार नहीं आयोजित किया था। तथापि, इस योजना के उपबंधों/लाभों का कर्मचारियों के बीच प्रचार करने के उद्देश्य से कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि संगठन ने पेंशन योजना के संबंध में विभिन्न भाषाओं में समाचार पत्र, पुस्तिकाएं और प्रैस विज्ञापनों को प्रकाशित/परिचालित करने का पहले ही निर्णय ले लिया था। पेंशन योजना के लाभों पर केन्द्रित "नया जमाना नया तराना" नामक एक रेडियो धारावाहिक तथा अंग्रेजी एवं अन्य स्थानीय भाषाओं में वीडियों कार्यक्रमों के प्रसारण की भी मंजूरी प्रदान की